

Kent Town Districts

1 In Obsolete S.B.

2 Library

# JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

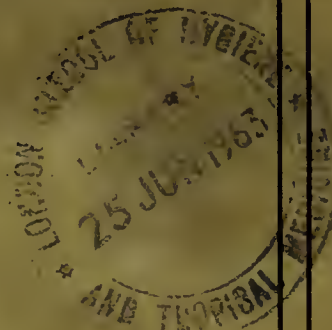
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1956



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH, D.P.H.







# CONTENTS

## ISLE OF SHEPPEY JOINT (M.O.H.) COMMITTEE:-

	Page
Members of Committee...	1
Preface ...	2- 3
Vital Statistics . ...	4- 6
Infectious Diseases ...	7- 9
School Health Service . ...	10-12

## QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL:-

Members of the Town Council. ...	13
Preface. ...	14
Sec. I Statistics and Social Conditions . ...	15
" II Vital Statistics .. ...	16-18
" III Infectious and other diseases ...	19-23
" IV General Provision of Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances ...	24-25
" V Housing . ...	26-27
" VI Food and Food Inspection ...	28-30
" VII Factories Administration ...	31
Appendix A - Details of Inspections ..	32
Appendix B - Nuisances Abated ...	33

## SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL:-

Members of the Council. ...	34
Preface. ...	35
Sec. I Statistics and Social Conditions . ...	36
" II Vital Statistics .. ...	37-39
" III Infectious and other diseases ...	40-43
" IV General Provision of Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances ...	44-47
" V Housing. ...	48-51
" VI Food and Food Inspection ...	52-55
" VII Factories Administration ...	56
Appendix A - Details of Inspections ..	57
Appendix B - Nuisances Abated ..	58

## SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL:-

Members of the Council. ...	59
Preface ...	60
Sec. I Statistics and Social Conditions . ...	61
" II Vital Statistics .. ...	62-64
" III Infectious and other diseases ...	65-69
" IV General Provision of Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances ...	70-73
" V Housing.. ...	74-75
" VI Food and Food Inspection ...	76-78
" VII Factories Administration ...	79
Appendix A - Details of Inspections ..	80
Appendix B - Nuisances Abated ...	81

I S L E   O F   S H E P P E Y  
(Medical Officer of Health)  
JOINT COMMITTEE

1956

Chairman:

H. C. Love

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.  
Miss D. L. Wood

Sheerness Urban District Council:

A. G. Coats, J.P.  
A. H. Copland  
E. F. Knight  
R. W. Stone  
Mrs. E. Tiltman

Sheppey Rural District Council:

H. C. Love  
Lt. Col. G.A. Keir

Clerk to the Committee:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Public Health Department Staff:

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk  
Miss M. Leader



Public Health Department  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness.

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey  
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1956.

According to the estimate of the Registrar-General, the population of the whole Island is 28,110, 140 less than 1955.

Details of Vital Statistics for the three districts and the Island as a whole may be found in Tables I and II and you will note from them that -

- (a) the Birth Rate was 15.8 per 1,000 population or 0.4 higher than last year
- (b) the Death Rate was 12.4 or 1.8 above 1955. This increase applied to all three districts. Table I however shows that the average of this Rate since 1951 is 10.9
- (c) the Infant Mortality Rate was only 11.2, the lowest ever recorded by the whole Island.

Table III shows the number of deaths attributed to Cancer of the Lung for the past seven years. Although these figures may not appear particularly large, they nevertheless represent 1 in 15 of all male deaths during that period. While there are possibly many causes of this form of cancer that are as yet unknown, it is now certain that one pre-disposing factor is excessive smoking.

Table IV gives details of Infectious Diseases in 1956 and recent years. 1956 recorded a very high number of Whooping Cough and an increase in Scarlet Fever, but only one case of Food Poisoning and a complete absence of Poliomyelitis.

Table V shows that the incidence rate of Tuberculosis is waning slightly whilst the death rate from the disease is still falling rapidly.

It was a great pity that the Poliomyelitis vaccination scheme should suffer such serious setbacks, but it is hoped that all registered children will have been successfully vaccinated by the end of 1957. BCG vaccination against Tuberculosis has proved itself on the continent but until now has only been offered in this country to people at special and known risk. The Ministry of Health however has now sanctioned a scheme for the County Council to extend BCG vaccination to school children between the ages of 13 and 14.

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their help in the preparation of this Report and the Chief Clerk, Mr. Pankhurst, who helps considerably in the smooth and efficient running of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and the period 1951-1956 and Table II shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past five years.

TABLE I

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1956	17.0	5.5	9.9	18.4
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1956	16.4	6.3	11.1	28.7
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1956	14.3	5.8	11.1	22.6
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1956	15.8	6.1	10.9	25.7



TABLE II

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births			Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough M.B.	1952	3,157	51	1 or 2.0%	16.2	34	10.8	2	0	39.2
	1953	3,215	55	3 or 5.5%	17.1	31	9.6	1	0	18.2
	1954	3,230	55	3 or 5.5%	17.0	29	9.0	2	0	36.4
	1955	3,220	59	4 or 6.8%	18.3	26	8.1	0	0	0.0
	1956	3,230	55	5 or 9.1%	17.0	47	14.5	1	0	18.2
Sheerness U.D.	1952	16,910	277	15 or 5.4%	16.4	148	8.8	5	0	18.1
	1953	16,270	282	19 or 6.7%	17.3	188	11.5	12	1	42.5
	1954	15,810	275	17 or 6.2%	17.4	186	11.7	9	1	32.7
	1955	15,650	251	16 or 6.3%	16.0	173	11.0	4	0	15.9
	1956	15,450	254	15 or 5.9%	16.4	193	12.5	3	1	11.8
Sheppey R.D.	1952	9,144	130	8 or 6.2%	14.2	102	11.2	5	0	38.5
	1953	9,201	122	11 or 9.0%	13.3	91	9.9	3	1	24.6
	1954	9,300	133	10 or 7.5%	14.3	106	11.4	2	2	15.0
	1955	9,380	126	4 or 3.2%	13.4	102	10.9	4	1	31.7
	1956	9,430	135	8 or 5.9%	14.3	109	11.6	1	0	7.4
Isle of Sheppey	1952	29,211	458	24 or 5.2%	15.7	284	9.7	12	0	26.2
	1953	28,686	459	33 or 7.1%	16.0	310	10.8	16	2	34.8
	1954	28,340	463	30 or 6.5%	16.3	321	11.3	13	3	28.1
	1955	28,250	436	24 or 5.5%	15.4	301	10.6	8	1	18.3
	1956	28,110	444	28 or 6.3%	15.8	349	12.4	5	1	11.2

# MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past seven years with age and sex distribution.

TABLE III

Year	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	Totals
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
1950	- -	2 -	3 -	3 -	1 1	1 -	10 1
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
1956	- -	- -	4 1	3 2	5 -	- -	12 3
Totals	1 -	7 1	21 1	29 6	20 2	2 -	80 10

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years.

TABLE IV

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para. Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
Greenborough M.B.	1952	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	1	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1955	1	1	-	106	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1956	5	14	-	48	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greenness U.D.	1952	14	4	-	7	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	7	32	-	34	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	6	107	-	3	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	1955	20	2	-	759	10	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	48	226	-	20	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sheppey R.D.	1952	7	33	-	33	21	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	9	29	-	115	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	5	115	-	6	10	5	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
	1955	2	6	-	460	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	9	89	-	59	13	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Isle of Sheppey	1952	21	37	-	123	24	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	16	62	-	159	14	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	12	273	-	11	14	7	-	-	1	-	2	14	1
	1955	23	9	-	1325	18	1	7	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	62	329	-	127	16	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

Table V shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926.

TABLE V

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.88	0.07	0.14
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.06
1956	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.04
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.12
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.05
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.04
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.05
1956	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.11
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.09
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.02
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.05
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.07
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.02
1956	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.05
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.03
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.06
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.02
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.04
1956	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00



I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, the Chest Physician, for the following figures relating to Sanatorium treatment and Clinic attendances.

(i) Institutions to which patients were sent during 1956 -

Keycol Sanatorium.	...	...	...	15 patients
Lenham Sanatorium.	...	...	...	3
Preston Hall.	...	...	...	4
Brentwood	...	...	...	1
St. Alphege's	...	...	...	1

(ii) Patients from the Isle of Sheppey who attended the Chest Clinic during 1956 -

	Men	Women	Children
Number of new pulmonary tuberculosis cases attending ..	9	7	-
Number of attendances made by new cases and contacts ... ..	124	132	261
Number of attendances made by old cases and contacts ... ..	306	163	128



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children on the Island during 1956 -

## (a) Number of inspections:

## (i) Periodic:

Entrants...	...	...	137
Second age group	...	...	352
Third age group.	...	...	241
Others	...	...	409

(ii) Special inspections ... .. 117

(iii) Re-inspections .... . 506

## (b) Number found to require treatment:

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table (c)	Total individual Pupils
Entrants ... ..	2	7	9
Second Age Group . . .	11	15	26
Third Age Group... ..	15	4	19
Total (prescribed groups)	28	26	54
Other periodic inspections	18	12	28
Grand total	46	38	82

(c) Return of defects found by medical inspection:

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS No. of Defects		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	4	15	1	1
Eyes (a) Vision	46	30	12	-
(b) Squint	5	13	2	-
(c) Other	2	5	2	-
Ears (a) Hearing	2	14	1	-
(b) Otitis Media	1	4	-	-
(c) Other	1	-	-	-
Nose or Throat	-	17	-	-
Speech	2	12	-	-
Lymphatic Glands	-	24	-	-
Heart and Circulation	-	9	-	1
Lungs	3	14	-	1
Development:				
(a) Hernia	-	3	2	-
(b) Other	1	5	-	-
Orthopaedic:				
(a) Posture	-	7	-	-
(b) Flat foot	3	9	1	-
(c) Other	6	20	5	-
Nervous system:				
(a) Epilepsy	-	-	-	-
(b) Other	-	3	-	-
Psychological:				
(a) Development	3	9	3	-
(b) Stability	2	4	7	-
Abdomen	-	1	-	1
Other	1	12	6	1
Totals	82	230	42	5

(d) Classification of general health of pupils inspected during the year:

Age groups	No. of pupils inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. (2)	No.	% of Col. (2)
Entrants ... ..	137	135	98.5	2	1.5
Second. ... ..	352	352	100.0	-	-
Third.. ... ..	241	241	100.0	-	-
Others. ... ..	409	407	99.5	2	0.5
Totals	1139	1135	99.6	4	0.4

(e) Defective vision and squint:

Number of defects dealt with

Errors of refraction (including squint).....	332
Other defects or diseases of the eyes	5
Eye disease treated as minor ailments	64
Number of pupils for whom spectacles prescribed..	92

(f) Dental Inspections and Treatment:

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers .....	1361
Number found to require treatment .....	816
Number actually treated .....	382

(g) Infestation with Vermin:

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons .....	5637
(ii) Number of pupils found to be infested ....	43
(iii) Number in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944) .....	41

## QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1956

Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor:

Alderman E. G. Dines

Aldermen:

Mrs. M. Dobner E. Thompson

Councillors:

S. J. W. Byrne

F. E. Cackett

D. Cunningham

H. G. Harris

S. Houldershaw

\*G. H. Lerpiniere

R. J. Petch (resigned 6th December 1956)

R. D. Sharrock

T. G. Thomas

D. H. Thomsett

A. F. Wilby

Miss D. L. Wood

\*Chairman of Health Committee

Town Clerk:

F. Marshall

Surveyor &amp; Public Health Inspector:

W. F. Dodds



Public Health Department  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness.

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1956.

The Birth Rate for the Borough was 17.0, a little lower than in 1955 but on a par with the rates for the past few years. The Corrected Rate was 17.5 and that for England & Wales 15.7.

The number of deaths in 1956 was 47, an exceptionally high figure. This gives a Death Rate of 14.5. In 1945 this rate was 14.2 but for a higher rate it is necessary to go back to the early 1900s. As I have mentioned before however, with a small population it is necessary to look at any rate over a longer period than a year in order to get a true picture and over the past 10 years it has averaged only 10.0. The Corrected Rate was 16.3 whilst that for England & Wales was 11.7.

Although the Death Rate was so high, the Infant Mortality Rate did not increase correspondingly and the low figure of 18.2 per 1,000 related births was recorded.

The most serious outbreak of infectious disease was a case of Typhoid. The cause of this was fortunately soon discovered and no further cases occurred.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Dodds, the Surveyor & Public Health Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health



## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## 1. AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water..	...	...	...	5	)	1,103
Land ...	...	...	...	1098		

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 662 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

## 2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1956 ...	...	...	...	3,230
---	-----	-----	-----	-------

This figure is 10 more than the 1955 estimate.  
The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was only 8 in 1956.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	...	1,011
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

4. RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£38,512
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

5. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£153
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

## SECTION II

## VITAL STATISTICS

## 1. BIRTHS

## (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	26 (30)	24 (25)	50 (55)
Illegitimate .....	3 (3)	2 (1)	5 (4)
Totals .....	29 (33)	26 (26)	55 (59)

## (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	17.0 (18.3)
Corrected rate .....	17.5 (18.9)
Rate for England & Wales .....	15.7 (15.0)

## (c) Still-births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)

## 2. DEATHS

(a) A total of 47 deaths were registered of which 29 were males and 18 females.

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	14.5 (8.1)
Corrected rate .....	16.3 (8.3)
Rate for England & Wales .....	11.7 (11.7)

(b) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Heart disease and associated conditions account for 22 of the 47 deaths as compared with 14 in 1955, respiratory diseases for 10 which is an increase of 7, and 8 deaths were due to various forms of cancer as compared with 3 the year before.

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2.Tuberculosis, other. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Syphilitic disease . ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
4.Diphtheria ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5.Whooping Cough. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6.Meningococcal infections. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Acute poliomyelitis. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8.Measles... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9.Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10.Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
11.Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ..	1 (2)	1 (-)	2 (2)
12.Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
13.Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	- (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)
14.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms..	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
15.Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
16.Diabetes.. ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
17.Vascular lesions of nervous system. ..	4 (-)	3 (-)	7 (-)
18.Coronary disease, angina. ... ..	9 (4)	1 (3)	10 (7)
19.Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
20.Other heart disease. ... ..	1 (1)	3 (5)	4 (6)
21.Other circulatory disease ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
22.Influenza. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23.Pneumonia. ... ..	2 (1)	2 (-)	4 (1)
24.Bronchitis ... ..	4 (1)	1 (1)	5 (2)
25.Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
26.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
27.Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
28.Nephritis and nephrosis.. ... ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
29.Hyperplasia of prostate . ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
30.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31.Congenital malformations. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
32.Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2 (2)	1 (-)	3 (2)
33.Motor vehicle accidents.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
34.All other accidents ... ..	2 (-)	- (-)	2 (-)
35.Suicide... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
36.Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes .. ... ..	29(15)	18(11)	47(26)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1955)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	3	7	12	1
Females	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	7	1

The average age at death was 67.4 (69.5 in 1955), being 66.6 (64.1) for the males and 68.7 (76.9) for the females. The oldest male was 85 and the oldest female 87 years.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

One infant death was recorded in 1956 giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 18.2 per 1,000 related births. This means that the rate over the past ten years has an average of 31.6 and still shows a downward trend. The 1956 rate for England & Wales was a new low record of 23.8.

Details of the death are given in the following table:-

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity (28 weeks)     ...     ...	F	2 days	Hospital	Hospital



## SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 71 cases of infectious disease were notified in 1956, 48 of them being Measles all of which occurred in a period of six weeks just before Christmas. 14 cases of Whooping Cough were notified which is an average figure for the Borough.

The most disturbing case to occur was one of Typhoid Fever. A holidaymaker fell ill on her return home to Hove from Queenborough and eventually Typhoid Fever was diagnosed. The patient and her relatives had collected and cooked cockles from Scrapsgate during her holiday but a check on all relatives and friends on the Island revealed no recent illness and specimens examined by the Public Health Laboratories were all negative.

Less than a fortnight after, a second case occurred, this time a Borough resident and again the consumption of cockles from Scrapsgate was a feature. At the same time, the Public Health Laboratories reported that Salmonella Typhi had been isolated from a sample of cockles that had been collected from Scrapsgate when the occurrence of the first case had suggested cockles as a possible cause. Phage typing showed it to be identical with the Salmonella Typhi from the Hove patient.

It was discovered that cooked cockles were sold at a local Public House by one of the patrons to his friends and in this way the second case was infected. They were cockles collected from Scrapsgate, cooked and bottled in jars by a young lad in Minster who then made a little pocket money by passing a few jars to his friends and relatives at week-ends. In the circumstances, it was not possible to discover whether the infection was due to inefficient cooking or to inefficient handling and consequent re-pollution after cooking.



The fact remained that the cockles were polluted when gathered and notices displayed on the foreshore warned would-be cocklers of the danger. Although specimens were taken from persons known to have eaten cockles and many other contacts no other cases were discovered. The patient made a quick recovery and although he still submits specimens to the Laboratories at regular intervals there is no sign that he has become a carrier.

Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE IV

Disease	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ...	14	2	2	6	4	1	1	1	1
Measles ... ..	48	1	8	6	34	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia .. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhoid Fever .. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas . ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals. ...	71	2	11	12	42	-	1	2	-

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1955, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1955)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1955)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	(1)	-	5	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	14	(1)	5	9	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles. ... ..	48	(106)	26	22	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	1	(1)	1	-	-	4	(1)
Erysipelas ... ..	1	(1)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Interperal Pyrexia. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid. ... ..	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	1	(1)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Totals ... ..	71	(111)	35	36	3	4	(1)

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year; this was a man of 17 years. For the fourth successive year, no deaths were attributed to this disease.

No new cases of the non-pulmonary form of this disease were notified and no deaths occurred.

Table VI gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1956	18	14	3	-	35
New notifications ... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other districts.	-	1	-	-	1
Deaths during year .. ...	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis..	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1956	19	15	3	-	37

### 3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1955	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1956	Total number Immunised at end of 1956
1956	5	-	5
1955	30	-	33
1954	6	-	34
1953	1	-	47
1952	2	8	53
1951	1	19	51
1950	-	-	30
1949	-	21	46
1948	-	5	57
1947	-	1	51
1946	-	-	31
1945	-	-	44
1944	-	-	51
1943	-	1	33
1942	-	-	55
Totals	45	55	621

These figures show that approximately 78% of children aged between 1 and 5 years have been immunised.

### 4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 .....	7 (14)	- (-)
1 to 4 .....	24 (8)	- (-)
5 to 14 .....	1 (-)	1 (-)
15 and over .....	7 (5)	3 (2)
Totals ...	39 (27)	4 (2)



## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

Since April 1956 the water supply for the whole Island has been administered by the newly-formed Sheppey Water Board. Samples submitted for bacteriological examination showed very good results almost without exception. The following are details of the samples taken by the Water Board and the Health Department

	No. of Samples	No. of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coli
Untreated ...	27	1	-
Treated	7	-	-

The discolouration of the water, more pronounced in some parts of the town, is not due to rust from the mains as is popularly supposed but to iron in the water which oxidizes on contact with the air as soon as it is pumped from the bore.

The Water Engineer has made exhaustive enquiries into this problem and informs me that unfortunately the two possible methods of clarifying a water containing iron are both prohibitive. The methods are (1) removal of the iron and (2) retention of the iron in solution. The first method would require the installation of costly plant, not economical in the case of a supply it is intended to dispense with in a few years; the second method would fail because the iron content is so high that attempts to retain it in solution would only aggravate the discolouration.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide.

The only houses in the Borough not on main drainage are at Pier Cottages, about half a mile from the town, where 18 houses are served by three cesspools.

500 yards of sewer extension and 550 yards of surface water sewer extension were completed during the year on the Rushenden Housing Estate.

## 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Pier Cottages. Applications of a tip dressing to prevent flies breeding are made monthly and quarterly baiting is carried out for signs of rodent infestation.



#### 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

#### 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two public conveniences, both for males only, situated in South Street and Railway Terrace. The provision of a modern public convenience for both sexes is proposed for 1957. This will be sited in Rushenden Road.

#### 6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

- (a) Two rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.
- (b) No disinfestations were required during the year.

#### 7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Spraying of ditches for the suppression of mosquito breeding was continued at regular intervals. No complaints of serious nuisance were received.

#### 8. RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations by rats .....	9
Number of infestations by mice .....	19
Number treated by local authority .....	27

The Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works employ their own operator and regular treatment is carried out.

The Ministry did not require test baiting of sewers as previous tests had shown no signs of infestation.

#### 9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

#### 10. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Water .....	34
Sewer swabs .....	8
Urine .....	5
Faeces .....	47

## SECTION V

## HOUSING

1. The following figures show building progress during 1956 and since the end of the war:-

	During 1956	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Completed .....	12	184
Under construction .....	16	-
Private enterprise:		
Completed .....	1	8
Under construction .....	-	-

The 12 houses completed during the year were aged persons bungalows. The following is an analysis of the 264 houses owned by the Council:-

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
Bungalows .....	8	18	26
Non-parlour 2-bedroomed .....	-	40	40
Non-parlour 3-bedroomed .....	63	36	99
Parlour 2-bedroomed .....	-	6	6
Parlour 3-bedroomed .....	9	84	93

At the end of the year there were still 130 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details:-

Queenborough residents in rooms .....	40
in flats or houses .....	35
Residents outside Queenborough in rooms .....	30
in flats or houses .	25

2. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

A. Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	-

B. Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	-
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	...	...	...	...	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	...	...	...	...	-
Parts of buildings closed under (Section 12) Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	-

C. Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	11
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:						
Houses remedied by owners.	...	...	...	...	...	-
Houses remedied by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	-
Housing Act 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9,10,11,16:						
Houses made fit by owners	...	...	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	-
Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 -						
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	...	...	...	...	...	2

## SECTION VI

## FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

## 1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but ten distributors retail the following designations -

Pasteurised .....	3
T.T. (Pasteurised) .....	2
Sterilised .....	7

## 2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Six premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and all retail pre-packed well-known makes. There is also one itinerant vendor who visits the district regularly during the summer.

## 3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections of food shops and factory canteens are made. The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

Ox Liver ... ..	15	lb
Beef ... ..	7	lb
Tinned luncheon meat ..	9	lb
Tinned corned beef ...	54	lb
Tinned minced beef loaf ... ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and forwarded to the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works for processing whilst tinned and other foods are buried on the Council's tip.

## 4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act 1955, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, sale and storage ...	6	24
Sausages, manufacture .....	3	12
Dairy .....	1	4



(b) 148 inspections were made of 35 other food premises, an analysis of which by type of business appears below:-

Butchery	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	4
General stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocery.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fishmonger ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioner.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baker and confectioner.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafe ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Clubs ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public houses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dairy ..	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### 5. FISH FRYING

There is only one fish frying establishment and this is always well kept.

#### 6. BAKEHOUSES

The only bakehouse operating in 1955 has now been closed.

## 7. FOOD &amp; DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year:--

Aspirin. ....	1
Bronchial Mixture. ....	1
Brown Sugar Pieces ....	1
Cashew Nuts . ....	1
Demerara Sugar .. ....	1
Fairy Milk Drops . ....	1
Gin ....	1
Golden Raising Powder . ....	1
Hazelnut Milk Chocolate ....	1
Lard ....	1
Meat Paste .. ....	1
Milk ....	10
Milk Chocolate Fairy Drops . ....	2
Milk Chocolate Toffees. ....	1
Sugar Ricicles ....	1
Sweetened Apple Sauce . ....	1
Whisky.. ....	1

All of the above samples were genuine.

## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (mechanical power) ...	10	79	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ....	2	24	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	1	1	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) - unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	-	-

## 3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Number of outworkers ... .. Nil.

## APPENDIX A

## Visits and Re-visits during 1956

[illegible]



## APPENDIX B

## Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1956

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage reconstructed.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	..	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes repaired, renewed or trapped	..	...	...	...	...	21
Water supplies, defects remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	..	...	...	...	...	7
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	..	...	...	...	...	2
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	..	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired	..	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse receptacles provided.	...	...	...	...	...	34
Washing coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Accumulations of refuse abated	..	...	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals abated	..	...	...	...	...	2

## SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956

## Chairman:

R. W. Stone, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman:

W. C. Butterworth

## Councillors:

B. J. Buckwell  
A. G. Coats, J.P.  
A. H. Copland  
R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.  
E. F. Knight  
H. A. Snook  
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
J. G. Ward  
H. L. Wise

## Health Committee:

## Chairman:

W. C. Butterworth

## Councillors:

A. H. Copland  
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.  
R. W. Stone, J.P.  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
J. G. Ward

## Clerk of the Council:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

## Senior Public Health Inspector:

D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

## Deputy Public Health Inspector:

G. L. Almond, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1956.

The Birth Rate of 16.4 per 1,000 of the population was slightly higher than the previous year, while the Corrected Rate of 17.9 compares favourably with the rate of 15.7 for England & Wales. The illegitimate rate was a little below the average and the still-birth rate was also reasonably low.

There were more deaths than in recent years and the rate per 1,000, 12.5, was above the normal - the average for the past ten years has been 11.8. The Corrected Death Rate was 13.2 as compared with 11.7 for the whole country.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 11.8 per 1,000 related live births was exceptionally low and has only been bettered once before, in 1949. The average over a period of years for this rate is 24.6, a satisfactory figure. The rate for England & Wales was 23.8, a new low record.

Many cases of Whooping Cough occurred during the year and unfortunately one death was caused by the disease. Except for Whooping Cough and sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever there was very little infectious disease during 1956. After the worrying time of 1955 the year was happily free from Poliomyelitis.

The Slum Clearance programme is now gathering pace and at the end of the year 189 houses had been dealt with.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, Senior Public Health Inspector, for the conscientious manner in which he has carried out his duties, which were made more difficult by the fact that he was without a deputy until September. I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA ... .. 943 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General  
for mid-1956 ... .. 15,450

This figure is 200 less than the 1955 estimate.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ... .. 4,800

4. RATEABLE VALUE ... .. £178,626

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE (estimated).. £730



# SECTION II

## VITAL STATISTICS

37

### BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate... ..	118 (134)	121 (101)	239 (235)
Illegitimate... ..	10 (6)	5 (10)	15 (16)
Totals... ..	128 (140)	126 (111)	254 (251)

Illegitimate births were 5.9% of the total births as compared with 6.3% last year.

### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population..	16.4	(16.0)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ..	17.9	(17.5)
Rate for England & Wales ... ..	15.7	(15.0)

### (b) Still-births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate... ..	2 (3)	2 (1)	4 (4)
Illegitimate... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

The Still-birth percentage of the total (live and still) births is 1.5% and this is about average for the district.

### DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes in 1956 was 104, 20 more than in 1955. 104 were males and 89 females.

### (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population..	12.5	(11.1)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ..	13.2	(10.8)
Rate for England & Wales ... ..	11.7	(11.7)

(c) The following table shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

58% of the deaths were due to heart diseases and associated conditions as compared with 52% in 1955; there were in fact 22 deaths from these causes. Nearly 16% of the total were due to various forms of cancer - a drop from 27% and 17 deaths fewer - 10% were assigned to diseases of the respiratory system from which there were 8 more deaths than in 1955.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1955)

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
2. Tuberculosis, other. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough. ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
6. Meningococcal infections. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	5 (2)	2 (3)	7 (5)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ..	5 (13)	2 (-)	7 (13)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	- (-)	2 (1)	2 (1)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms..	9 (14)	4 (13)	13 (27)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
16. Diabetes.. ... ..	- (1)	2 (-)	2 (1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system. ..	14 (13)	20 (17)	34 (30)
18. Coronary disease, angina. ... ..	20 (10)	6 (10)	26 (20)
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	2 (-)	2 (3)	4 (3)
20. Other heart disease. ... ..	19 (13)	24 (22)	43 (35)
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	1 (-)	4 (2)	5 (2)
22. Influenza. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia. ... ..	2 (3)	2 (1)	4 (4)
24. Bronchitis ... ..	6 (3)	7 (4)	13 (7)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ... ..	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.. ... ..	2 (-)	- (-)	2 (-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.. ... ..	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
31. Congenital malformations. ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	10 (2)	7 (9)	17 (11)
33. Motor vehicle accidents . ... ..	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
34. All other accidents. ... ..	3 (4)	1 (1)	4 (5)
35. Suicide... ..	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes ... ..	104 (85)	89 (88)	193 (173)

(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	2	-	-	2	-	2	4	21	41	26	6
Females	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	11	21	32	19

The average age at death was 70.5 (67.0 in 1955), being 67.7 (65.8) for the males and 73.8 (68.1) for the females. The oldest male was 91 and the oldest female 93 years.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

Only three deaths were registered of infants under 1 year of age and this gives a rate of 11.8 per 1,000 live births, just a little higher than the record low figure of 11.3 in 1948. The rate for England & Wales was again a new low record of 23.8. It is very gratifying to note that this rate over the past ten years has averaged only 24.6 in Sheerness.

The following table gives particulars of the 3 deaths.

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Asphyxiation due to inhalation of vomit due to bilateral otitis media ...	M	3 months	Home	Home
Atelectasis Prematurity. ... ..	M	22 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital heart disease Influenza .. ... ..	F	18 days	Home	Hospital



## SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. There were fewer infectious diseases in 1956 than in 1955 because it was not a "Measles year", 20 cases occurring compared with 759 in the epidemic of the year before.

Scarlet Fever, still very mild, was rather more prevalent than it has been of late years and it is necessary to go back to 1942 with 69 cases to exceed the 48 in 1956, although there were nearly as many in 1949.

Whooping Cough was very prevalent in the first half of the year and the 226 cases notified is more than double the previous highest figure. It is deeply regretted that a child of 5 years died in Sheppey General Hospital from this disease, the first time a death has been recorded since 1947.

There has now been no Diphtheria since 1948 and Poliomyelitis was mercifully absent. One case of Food Poisoning was notified but although the organism was identified it was never possible to trace the source of infection.

Table IV below shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE IV

Disease	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever ... ..	48	1	1	7	39	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ...	226	18	51	57	86	7	1	5	1
Measles ... ..	20	1	3	6	8	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia .. ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Erysipelas . ...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Food Poisoning .. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4
Totals ...	313	19	56	70	133	10	4	10	9



Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1955, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1955)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1955)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	48	(20)	23	25	5	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	226	(2)	105	121	1	1	(-)
Diphtheria .. ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles.. ..	20	(759)	11	9	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	2	(10)	1	1	-	4	(4)
Erysipelas .. ...	3	(-)	1	2	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ..	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para .. ..	-	(5)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious. .. ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Herpetic Pyrexia. ... ..	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	(-)	1	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	12	(17)	7	5	8	-	(1)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals ... ..	313	(816)	149	164	14	5	(5)

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Twelve new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, and this is about average for recent years, although less than in 1955 when 17 were notified.

In 1955 I was able to mention that the one death from this disease was the lowest ever recorded. In 1956 there were no deaths from Tuberculosis. It is interesting to note that in Sheerness 50 years ago 26 deaths were recorded from Tuberculosis and the figure then was not considered anything out of the ordinary.

The following table gives a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1956 ..	78	60	10	19	167
New notifications ... ..	7	5	-	-	12
Transfers from other districts .	-	1	-	-	1
Deaths during year ... ..	1*	-	-	-	1
Removed from district. ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Recovered... ..	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1956 .	84	66	9	19	178

\* Case on Register but cause of death not Tuberculosis.

### 3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1956	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1956	Total number Immunised at end of 1956
1956	19	-	19
1955	147	-	155
1954	21	-	200
1953	5	-	198
1952	-	7	211
1951	-	71	224
1950	2	25	276
1949	-	4	264
1948	-	3	202
1947	6	9	177
1946	-	2	131
1945	-	3	122
1944	-	-	124
1943	-	1	123
1942	-	-	110
Totals	200	125	2536

These figures show that approximately 70% of children aged between 1 and 5 have been immunised.

### 4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 .. ...	95 (87)	- (-)
1 to 4 ... ..	89 (63)	7 (1)
5 to 14 .. ...	8 (10)	8 (11)
15 and over ...	18 (28)	22 (15)
Totals ...	210(188)	37 (27)



## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

In accordance with the Kent Water Act, 1955, all of the Island water undertakings were taken over by the Sheppey Water Board in April 1956.

It was not possible to maintain a 24 hour supply in Sheerness throughout the whole of the year. The risk of pollution is increased when the supply is shut off during the night and it is hoped that the Board will be able to avoid this practice in the near future.

Samples taken by the Board and the Health Department totalled 106 and the results of bacteriological examination are shown below

Supply	Number of samples	Number of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coli
Trinity Road -			
Untreated ..	30	1	0
Treated ...	25	3	0
Sheerness East -			
Untreated ..	28	1	0
Treated ...	23	2	0

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide.

Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is not otherwise treated.



The installation of two new 12" storm water pumps for the reconstructed West Minster outfall station was completed during the year. The scraping and descaling of the trunk sewer from Clyde Street to Alma Road and the High Street was also completed and the Engineer & Surveyor estimated that  $19\frac{1}{2}$  tons of silt and ballast had been removed. These works should help to prevent the flooding of parts of Marine Town during heavy rain.

### 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

All refuse from Sheerness is transported to the Scrapsgate tip in the Sheppey Rural District.

### 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. Cooking and washing up arrangements at the canteens are very satisfactory.

### 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council propose to build three new public conveniences when restrictions on capital expenditure permit. These will replace existing conveniences that are either unsatisfactory or insufficient and will be sited in Royal Road, Marine Parade Bathing Station and opposite the Railway Station.

#### . PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths - Facilities for both sexes exist at the Wood Street Baths (3 male and 3 female). These were used by an average of 58 men and 24 women weekly during the year.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool - This pool is open from Whit Sunday until September approximately. The sea water in the pool is purified by continuous filtration and chlorination and ten samples taken for bacteriological examination showed excellent results. An estimated number of 30,000 persons used the pool, the highest attendance on one day being 650.

#### . LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals were used for 147 cats and 83 dogs during 1956, 38 animals less than the year before. Five of these were strays brought in by the police.

## 8. CAMPING SITES

There are three licensed sites for summer visitors situated a

Cheyney Rock - 25 caravans  
 Seabreeze Camp - 33 caravans  
 Ravelin Battery- 82 caravans

These camps have mains water supply and drainage connected to the Council's sewers and adequate closet and washing facilities. Refuse collections are made weekly by the Council. The camps were maintained and conducted satisfactorily throughout the year.

## 9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Ten premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of 57 disinfestations -

	Council houses	Other houses
Bugs ... ..	6	15
Fleas .. ...	2	3
Cockroaches .. ...	19	12

## 10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

From early spring until autumn it is the practice to spray ditches with Malariol in order to prevent larvae from developing into winged adults. In an effort to leave no loopholes, this work was done in liaison with the Admiralty and the War Department

Now that No.5 Housing Site is nearing completion, it is hoped that the further piping in of ditches in that area will be undertaken. Without stagnant water there can be no mosquito breeding, but many residents unwittingly provide a home for the eggs by leaving rainwater butts uncovered.

The types of mosquito that invade the house were not very prevalent during the year. They are easily killed by most insect sprays, while repellent creams are most efficient for giving individual protection against the vicious biters that attack when out of doors.

## 11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations -

Number of properties inspected after complaint..	...	171
Number found to be infested by rats...	...	40
Number found to be infested by mice...	...	96

There was a slight increase in the number of complaints, 19 more than in 1955, and also a similar increase in the number of infestations treated. Domestic premises are treated by the Council without charge but business premises are only dealt with on payment. 29 business premises are included in the above figures.

(b) Sewers - There are approximately 370 manholes in the Council's sewerage system. A test baiting showed no new areas of infestation and maintenance treatment at sites of former infestation revealed a few takes, but there has been no marked increase in the small rat population of the sewers. Throughout the year 132 baits were laid in sewers and of this number 13 were "takes".

## 2. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Liaison has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Alkali etc. works and as previously reported, the steps taken by the Oil Refinery to prevent nuisance have been further modified and improved and it is gratifying to note that no complaints were received during the year.

## 4. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

With the exception of the Gas Board's undertaking at West Thurrock, none of the industrial premises in the Urban District create atmospheric pollution. Nevertheless, nationally the pollution from domestic fires through the burning of soft bituminous coals on stoves not properly designed to produce efficient combustion is estimated to be the source of half the atmospheric pollution. The success of any efforts to secure abatement of atmospheric pollution depends on publicity and education in the efficient use of fuel and less on the supply of smokeless fuel in sufficient quantities which would favour their use.

## 5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

In no instance was it necessary to apply for an Order for removal of old people in need of care and attention.

## 6. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Faeces .....	22	Water .....	106
Urine .....	8	Milk .....	44
Sewer swabs .....	9	Ice Cream .....	11
Cockles .....	1	Flies .....	1



## SECTION V

## HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1956 and the total since the war:-

	During 1956	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Temporary, completed. ... ..	-	46
Permanent, completed. ... ..	49	673
Permanent, under construction .	100	-
Other houses:		
Permanent, completed. ... ..	4	33

## 2. SLUM CLEARANCE

The rehousing of families from the Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Orders Nos.1 and 2, 1954, continued during the year and was sufficiently advanced to enable housing redevelopment to commence on the site in the summer. This rebuilding is for a block of 15 2-bedroomed flats. Rehousing of families and demolition of 4 houses in the Montague Road Compulsory Purchase Order was undertaken and 5 houses in the West Street Clearance Order were also demolished.

The Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1955 covering some 49 houses and other premises was confirmed in May without modification after an Inquiry in February and a substantial amount of rehousing from the area was undertaken during the year. It is hoped that the site will be cleared by the spring of 1957 for redevelopment. Three blocks of flats, 48 in all, are proposed to be erected.

Three further Compulsory Purchase Orders were prepared during the year. They were approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry for confirmation in December. They are the Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956 (2 houses), the Short Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956 (39 houses) and the Broad Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956 (19 houses).

The position of the slum clearance programme at the end of the year was as follows:-

Total 5-year programme, July 1955 ... ..	403
Families rehoused. ... ..	85
Houses demolished. ... ..	56
Houses not demolished but included in Closing Orders, Demolition Orders or confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders ... ..	75
Houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders not yet confirmed.. ... ..	58



3. Four Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made on the following properties:-

8 and 10 North Street  
36 and 38 Wood Street

Six houses were demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11. They were -

67 Hope Street  
30 Spring Garden Passage  
23 and 25 East Lane  
199 and 201 High Street

Ten houses were also demolished as a result of informal procedure. They were -

118 and 119 Rose Street  
24 Sheppey Street  
98, 100, 114 and 116 Hope Street  
19 King Street  
17 Sheppey Street  
9 Railway Road

4. Closing Orders under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made on the following ten houses:-

12A North Street  
10 School Lane  
50 and 52 Rose Street  
25 Bell Alley  
199 and 201 High Street  
3 Newton's Court, Broad Street  
32 Victory Street  
3 Ward's Place

5. The following 36 houses in Clearance Areas were actually demolished during the year:-

West Street: 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14  
Montague Road: 1, 3, 5 and 7  
Hope Street: 69, 71, 84A, 86A, 88A, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 92, 62 and 64.  
South Street: 9, 11, 13 and 15  
Bell Alley: 47  
Spring Garden Passage: 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19  
Brewery Row: 9

6. The following are details of the Compulsory Purchase Orders which were awaiting confirmation at the end of the year:-

Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956:

9 and 11 Hope Street

Broad Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956:

Hope Street: 102, 104, 106 and 108

Broad Street: 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64 and 66

Newton's Court: 1, 2 and 3

Hope Street Passage: 1, 2 and 3

Short Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1956:

Russell Street: 53, 55, 57 and 59

North Street: 11/13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27,  
29, 31, 33, 35 and 37

Short Street: 2, 4/6, 8, 10, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24,  
28, 30 and 32

North Street Passage: 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 4, 5, 6, 7,  
8 and 14A

7. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is summarised below:-

A. Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement.	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	..	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	42

B. Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	16
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	...	...	...	...	...	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Parts of buildings closed under (Section 12) Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	22

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	114
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:	
Houses remedied by owners. ....	4
Houses remedied by Local Authority.. ...	-
Housing Act 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9,10,11,16:	
Houses made fit by owners. ....	-
Houses made fit by Local Authority.. ...	-
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 -	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	-

Purchase of houses by agreement

Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year. ....	2
---	---

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair. ....	1
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued. ....	1
Number of Certificates revoked... ..	1



## SECTION VI

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. The Council in conjunction with the Borough of Queenborough and Sheppey Rural District arranged a successful meeting of employers and employees in the food trade, the object being to stimulate interest in food hygiene and to focus attention on the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Summaries of the provisions of the Regulations were supplied to all food traders and improvements in several premises to comply with the Regulations were made. Owing to the Senior Public Health Inspector being without an Assistant for eight months of the year, the increased duties in slum clearance and rehousing, it was not possible to devote as much time as one could have wished to routine inspection of food premises.

## 2. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 35 registered retailers of the following designations:-

Pasteurised..	...	...	...	9
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	2
Sterilised...	...	...	...	34

22 samples of both Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk were taken during the year and all passed the prescribed tests.

For some years now all the milk supplies have been specially designated milks, i.e., Pasteurised, T.T., or Sterilised, and it is expected that in the near future the Urban District will be included in a specified area as provided for in the Food & Drugs Act 1955. In such an area only designated milks are permitted to be retailed. This legislation is designed to secure that all milk supplies are retailed under conditions to prevent the risk of spread of infection.

## 3. ICE CREAM

There is very little ice cream manufactured locally, the majority of premises retailing pre-packed supplies from manufacturers of national repute. One retailer was cautioned when a mobile van was found to be not satisfactorily equipped. The vehicle had been brought into temporary use.

Premises registered for manufacture...	...	2
Premises registered for sale and storage ..	...	49

11 samples taken for bacteriological standards showed satisfactory results, 8 being Grade I, 2 Grade II and 1 Grade III.



#### 4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) The meat supplies continued to be obtained from wholesalers in the Canterbury and Chatham areas. There has been improvement in the transport facilities for handling meat and losses through this cause seldom occur.

(b) Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalene green. Other food is buried at an adequate depth on the refuse tip.

(c) The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	237 lbs
Bacon and ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	85 lbs
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	138 lbs
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	69 lbs
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	273 lbs
Fish, fresh	...	...	...	...	...	...	411 lbs
smoked	...	...	...	...	...	...	70 lbs
tinned	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs
Butter, margarine and fats	...	...	...	...	...	...	27 lbs
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	27 lbs
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	43 lbs
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	396 lbs
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	504 lbs
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 lbs
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	1219 lbs
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 lbs

#### FOOD PREMISES

(a) Following the publicity given at the coming into force of the Food Hygiene Regulations, improvements have been made with regard to providing smooth, easily cleaned, impervious surfaces, better washing facilities and hot water supplies, an increase in greened displays and refrigerated cabinets.

(b) 59 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - 1954:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and sale	51	26
Manufacture of preserved foods	14	21
Dairy	1	12

(c) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below:-

Hotels, cafes, restaurants..	...	29
Groceries, general provisions	...	75
Butchers	... ..	12
Fish, wet	... ..	6
Fish, fried	... ..	9
Sweets, manufacture	... ..	1
Meat pies, manufacture.	... ..	1
Greengrocery.	... ..	24
Ships' chandlers..	... ..	1
Confectionery and sweets	... ..	20
Bakeries	... ..	3

190 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

#### 6. FISH FRYING

There are nine fish frying premises and all have operated satisfactorily with one exception, in this case a nuisance occurred through defects in the chimney from frying vats. Replacement of the chimney effected an improvement.

#### 7. SHELLFISH

As reported in previous years, the former local trade has ceased and no shellfish retailed by local fishmongers are collected from the Island foreshores. Following two cases of Typhoid traced to shellfish collected near Sheerness, school children were warned of the danger of handling and consuming polluted shellfish and all persons who formerly collected shellfish were advised of the existing pollution and its dangers and also of the necessity for registration of premises under the Food & Drugs Act. Nine sewer swabs were taken during this period with negative results.

#### 8. BAKEHOUSES

Former difficulty at one premises with grease in bread from bakehouse machinery has not recurred, but cakes from another baker were complained of and the management and staff were interviewed.

## 9. FOOD &amp; DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Kent County Council:-

Beef Sausages	...	...	1	Milk Walnut Whips.	...	1
Bovril..	...	...	1	Mint Sauce...	...	1
Butter .	...	...	1	Mycota Powder	...	1
Buttered Macaroons	...	...	1	Neo-Selaram .	...	1
Cake Mix	...	...	2	Orange Squash	...	1
Caviar .	...	...	1	Ostrax Tonic.	...	1
Cojene..	...	...	1	Oxtail Soup..	...	1
Cooking fat..	...	...	1	Pickled Shrimps	..	1
Gin	...	...	1	Pork Brawn ..	...	1
Golden Eye Ointment	...	...	1	Powdered Brown Soup	...	1
Grasshopper Ointment	..	...	1	Rybarex.	...	1
Ground Ginger	...	...	1	Savoury Ducks	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	1	Self-raising Flour	...	1
Kippavette	..	...	1	Steak Pudding	...	1
Kola	...	...	1	Strepsil Gargle	..	1
Lard	...	...	1	Tea Bags	...	1
Lemon Cheese.	...	...	1	Toffee Cup	..	1
Luncheon Meat	...	...	1	Veal, Ham and Egg Pie	.	1
Marzipan	...	...	1	Whisky..	...	2
Meat Paste	..	...	1	Yoghourt	...	1
Milk	...	...	28			

All of the samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Cake Mix.	Moderately mite infested.	Withdrawn from sale.
Milk.	3.3% deficient in fat.	) Follow up samples showed that the quality of the milk had, in each case, improved.
Milk.	6.7% deficient in fat.	
Milk.	5.0% deficient in fat.	

## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	6	2	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)... ...	46	17	-
Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)... ...	4	4	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Nil.

## 3. Outwork

There are four outworkers in the district, all engaged in making wearing apparel. No action was necessary under Sections 110 and 111.



## APPENDIX A

## Visits and Re-visits during 1956

Ashbins. ....	21
Bakehouses .. ...	12
Bug infested houses ...	34
Verminous houses (excluding bugs) ...	57
Filthy conditions. ...	8
Defective sanitary accommodation. ...	33
Defective drainage ...	81
Drainage re-laid.. ...	16
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts ...	23
Halls and places of entertainment ...	7
Houses let-in-lodgings. ...	3
Public health interviews ...	157
Movable dwellings ...	15
Marine stores ...	5
Public conveniences ...	7
Rats and mice ...	486
Refuse collection ...	10
Schools ...	12
Keeping of animals ...	22
Swimming Pools ..	10
Water sampling ...	54
Water supplies ...	12
Watercourses ...	5
Mosquito control . ...	12
Inspections under Public Health Acts.. ...	224
Inspections under Housing Regulations, 1932 ...	129
Inspections in Clearance Areas .. ...	225
Inspections re Demolition Orders and Closing Orders . ...	84
Inspections for overcrowding ...	15
Miscellaneous housing visits ...	52
Re-housing interviews and investigations ..	845
Infectious disease investigations ...	57
Disinfections ...	13
Meat shops and vehicles ...	17
Fishmongers and poulterers . ...	15
Grocers ...	42
Greengrocers and fruiterers. ...	17
Dairies and milk shops. ...	12
Milk sampling ...	44
Ice cream premises ...	15
Ice cream sampling ...	11
Restaurants and cafes . ...	26
Food manufacturing premises. ...	21
Miscellaneous food visits ..	14
Smoke, dust and fumes.. ...	8
Miscellaneous visits and interviews... ..	57

## APPENDIX B

## Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1956

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	14
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage, repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage, cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drainage, reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks, repaired or renewed	.	...	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	..	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters	..	...	...	...	...	12
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dampness remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	19
Wall plaster renewed	..	...	...	...	...	10
Ceilings repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired	..	...	...	...	...	6
Windows and ventilation repaired or improved	..	...	...	...	...	10
Woodwork renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces and stoves renewed or repaired	.	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse receptacles provided.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Washing copper renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse abated	..	...	...	...	...	5
Keeping of animals abated...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	13

## SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956

## Chairman:

Lt. Col. G. A. Keir, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman:

W/Cmr. W. E. James

## Councillors:

H. E. Alltimes  
 H. A. Auty, B.A.  
 R. N. Bigg  
 G. K. Dawkins  
 A. P. Dummott  
 Mrs. H. Faulkner  
 G. Ingleton  
 H. C. Love  
 Miss E.M. Mills, C.C.  
 G. T. Parris  
 F. H. Purvis  
 W. W. White

## Health Committee:

## Chairman:

Miss E.M. Mills, C.C.

## Councillors:

H. A. Auty, B.A.  
 Mrs. H. Faulkner  
 W/Cmr. W.E. James  
 Lt.Col. G.A. Keir, J.P.  
 H. C. Love  
 W. W. White

## Clerk of the Council:

M. W. Claye

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:  
 E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:  
 T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1956.

The Crude Birth Rate rose slightly in 1956 from 13.4 to 14.3. The Corrected Rate was 16.3 as compared with 15.7 for England & Wales. The Illegitimate Rate, although higher than in 1955 was still a little lower than average. The Still-birth Rate was also higher than the previous year and was above the normal for the area.

The Crude Death Rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the population was slightly higher than in 1955 - 10.9, but was only 0.2 above the 10-year average. The Corrected Rate for the district was 11.3 as compared with 11.7 for England & Wales.

While other rates showed nothing remarkable in their fluctuation, the Infant Mortality Rate reached its lowest ever with one exception. The rate was only 7.4 per 1,000 related birth and only in the year 1945 was it lower. This rate for England & Wales continues to fall and was only 23.8, a new low record.

There was a small outbreak of Measles but insignificant compared with the year before. Whooping Cough was the most prevalent infectious disease, 89 cases occurring. There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

By the end of the year, the Leysdown main drainage scheme was nearing completion and it is hoped that by 1957 many camps and premises will have main drainage.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Brading, the Surveyor, Engineer & Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Davies the Additional Public Health Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA ... .. 20,319 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated for mid-1956 by  
the Registrar-General ... .. 9,430

This figure is 50 higher than the previous year.  
The natural increase in population, that is the excess  
of births over deaths, was 26.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ... .. 3,389

4. RATEABLE VALUE ... .. £118,002

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE .. ... £452

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	58 (67)	69 (55)	127 (122)
Illegitimate .....	3 (2)	5 (2)	8 (4)
Total .....	61 (69)	74 (57)	135 (126)

The total number of births was 9 more than in 1955 and 5.9% were illegitimate.

##### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	14.3	(13.4)
Corrected rate .....	16.3	(15.3)
Rate for England & Wales .....	15.7	(15.0)

##### (c) Still-births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	4 (-)	1 (2)	5 (2)
Illegitimate .....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Still-births were 3.6% of the total live and still births as compared with 1.6% last year.

#### 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths during 1956 was 109 of which 63 were males and 46 females. This total was 7 more than in 1955.

##### (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	11.6	(10.9)
Corrected rate .....	11.3	(9.8)
Rate for England & Wales .....	11.7	(11.7)

(c) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Of the 109 deaths, various forms of cancer were responsible for 21 (6 less than in 1955) and 58 were due to heart disease and associated conditions (11 more than the year before). 7 were due to respiratory diseases as compared with 6 in 1955.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1955)

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	- (3)	- (1)	- (4)
2. Tuberculosis, other. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease.. ... ..	1 (2)	1 (-)	2 (2)
4. Diphtheria. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis. ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
8. Measles... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	3 (5)	1 (3)	4 (8)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ..	6 (5)	- (1)	6 (6)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	- (-)	2 (2)	2 (2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .	6 (7)	3 (4)	9 (11)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
16. Diabetes.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system. ..	5 (5)	10 (6)	15 (11)
18. Coronary disease, angina. ... ..	11 (11)	6 (4)	17 (15)
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	2 (2)	3 (3)	5 (5)
20. Other heart disease. ... ..	6 (8)	8 (6)	14 (14)
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	4 (2)	3 (-)	7 (2)
22. Influenza. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia. ... ..	2 (1)	1 (1)	3 (2)
24. Bronchitis ... ..	1 (3)	2 (1)	3 (4)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ... ..	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ..	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.. ... ..	2 (-)	1 (-)	3 (-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate . ... ..	2 (2)	- (-)	2 (2)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations. ... ..	- (2)	1 (-)	1 (2)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5 (2)	3 (3)	8 (5)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.. ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
34. All other accidents. ... ..	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
35. Suicide... ..	2 (-)	- (1)	2 (1)
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes ... ..	63 (64)	46 (38)	109 (102)

(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	-	1	-	1	-	-	5	10	25	16	5
Females	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	6	10	17	7

The average age at death was 68.4 years (66.6 in 1955), being 67.8 for the males (64.7) and 69.3 for the females (69.9). The oldest male was 88 years and the oldest female 93 years.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

There was only one infant death under the age of 1 year and the rate of 7.4 per 1,000 live births is the lowest ever recorded in the district. In recent years this rate has been consistently low with a 10-year average of only 26.0. The corresponding rate for England & Wales was also the lowest ever recorded, viz., 23.8

Details are given in the following table:-

TABLE III

	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Lt. Lobar Pneumonia Congenital Heart Disease	F	5 months	Home	Hospital



## SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

179 cases of infectious disease were notified in 1956 as compared with 495 in 1955.

There were 9 cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 more than the previous year, but equivalent to the average of recent years. Whooping Cough was very prevalent, 89 cases, but this was exceeded in 1954 when there were 115 cases. The numbers of cases above and below school age were almost equal. Measles had been epidemic the year before but there was a small outbreak of 59 cases at the end of the year.

One case of Infective Encephalitis occurred but recovered. There has now been no Diphtheria in the district since 1948 and once again there was no Food Poisoning.

Two cases of Typhoid occurred in June, one a holiday maker who fell ill after leaving the district and the second a Queenborough resident. Cockles from Scrapsgate were suspect in the first case but the second definitely confirmed that cockles were the cause and eventually *Salmonella typhi* isolated from both patients and from cockles collected at Scrapsgate were all phage typed and found to be identical.

Notices warning the public were immediately posted in the area of Scrapsgate, and the cooperation of the press also warned would-be cocklers of the danger.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Port of London Health Authority visited the district and the foreshore may be made a "prescribed area" by that Authority under the Shellfish Regulations in order to prevent commercial collection of the cockles unless followed by an approved cleansing process.

There will be nothing to prevent collection and consumption by families spending the day at the seaside and for this reason the warning posters have now been replaced by notices of a more permanent design.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries also made a survey of the beaches from Sheerness to Shellness and advocated an extension of the sewage outfall pipe at Scrapsgate to low water mark in order to reduce heavy beach pollution. This matter was considered by the Council who requested the Surveyor to investigate the possibility of installation of a chlorinating plant for the sewage effluent during the summer months.

Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE IV

Diseases	At all ages	Age groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever ... ..	9	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	89	8	17	20	38	2	2	2	1
Measles. ... ..	59	2	7	14	35	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas .. ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ...	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Totals .. ...	179	10	25	37	77	4	6	5	6

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1955, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1955)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1955)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	9	(2)	6	3	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	89	(6)	41	48	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ... ..	59	(460)	34	25	1	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	13	(7)	7	6	-	3	(2)
Erysipelas .. ...	2	(-)	1	1	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ..	-	(4)	-	-	-	1	(-)
Non-Para ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective ..	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Post-infectious.	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia. ... ..	-	(6)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	6	(10)	4	2	3	-	(4)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals. ... ..	179	(495)	94	85	5	4	(6)

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Only 6 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, all pulmonary, 4 less than in 1955 and also below the 10-year average. For the third successive year, no non-pulmonary cases were notified.

The death rate from this disease continues to decline and no deaths were recorded. 1952 was the only other year that there were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Table VI gives a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1956 ..	49	45	14	11	119
New notifications ... ..	4	2	-	-	6
Transfers from other districts..	1	1	-	-	2
Deaths during year ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis ..	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district. ... ..	2	-	-	-	2
Recovered... ..	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1956	51	48	13	11	123



### 3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1956	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1956	Total number Immunised at end of 1956
1956	7	-	7
1955	91	-	92
1954	21	-	84
1953	2	-	107
1952	2	2	104
1951	1	29	132
1950	-	16	105
1949	-	4	132
1948	-	2	119
1947	-	5	102
1946	-	2	101
1945	-	-	108
1944	-	-	89
1943	-	-	91
1942	-	-	64
Totals	124	60	1437

These figures show that approximately 78% of children aged between 1 and 5 years have been immunised.

### 4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ... ..	31 (40)	- (-)
1 to 4 ... ..	49 (37)	1 (-)
5 to 14 ... ..	2 (2)	4 (5)
15 and over. ...	12 (6)	7 (13)
Totals ..	94 (85)	12 (18)

## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Under the provisions of the Kent Water Act 1955, from April 1956 the whole of the Island's water supply has been administered by the newly-formed Sheppey Water Board. Frequent sampling of untreated water by the Board and of treated samples at points on the distribution by the Public Health Inspector has been carried out and the results of bacteriological examination are shown below -

Supply	No. of samples taken	No. of samples in which were found Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coliform
Warden - Untreated	23	3	0
Treated	2	0	0
Leysdown -			
Untreated	19	11	1
Treated	11	4	2
Eastchurch -			
Untreated	24	0	0
Wall End -			
Untreated	24	0	0
Abbey Gate -			
Untreated	24	8	4
Minster area -			
Treated	19	4	2
Wells on isolated farms - Untreated	5	2	1

In addition to these, five samples were also submitted for chemical analysis.

(b) The number of dwelling-houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows:-

	From public supplies	Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells No. of houses
Minster .....	2560	-	-
Eastchurch .....	430	22	1
Warden .....	135	-	-
Leysdown .....	236	-	70*
Harty .....	-	-	5
Elmley .....	1	-	-

\* These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach. In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district -

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster .....	2537	33	84
Eastchurch .....	200	181	154
Leysdown .....	110	125	71
Warden .....	-	131	19
Elmley & Harty ..	-	24	10

(b) Sewage from the Minster area is collected either at the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works and the effluent is discharged into a ditch which goes directly into the sea.

The premises in the parish of Eastchurch are fairly equally divided between those on main drainage, cesspools and pail closets, although conversions are gradually increasing the number on main drainage. The sewage from main drainage is dealt with at the Eastchurch Disposal Works and is ultimately piped to Windmill Creek.

For Warden and Leysdown, main drainage is available for only about one-fifth of the premises and these are all in Leysdown. The Leysdown main drainage scheme is now materially completed however and this will allow for the conversion of the majority of premises in Leysdown.

A night soil collection operated by the Council provides service for 124 houses with pail closets.

## 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Negotiations are still proceeding for the use of a new refuse tip to be sited at Windmill Creek. This is a very isolated spot and will be welcomed by both residents and holidaymakers in the Scrapsgate area who in the past have been annoyed at times by smoke from tip fires.

A heavy rodent infestation occurred towards the end of the year but was successfully dealt with by Antu treatment.

## 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. Washing facilities are also available in the conveniences at Leysdown and Scrapsgate.



## 6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Ten premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year -

	Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs .....	-	-
Fleas .....	1	-
Wasps .....	-	3
Ants .....	-	1
Flies .....	-	1

## 7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

The usual practice of spraying cowsheds and pigsties with D.D.T. in early spring, and accumulations of water and ditches near houses with Malariol during the spring and summer was again carried out. Once again there were no serious nuisances reported.

## 8. RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year

Number of infestations by rats .....	162
Number of infestations by mice .....	33
Number treated by local authority .....	195
Number of farm surveys .....	147
Number of farms treated .....	28
Number of survey visits .....	1548
Number of treatment visits .....	916

Sewer treatment was carried out in June at the request of the Divisional Rodent Officer but there were no takes from 71 manholes baited.

## 9. CAMPING SITES

The following are details of camping sites in the area -

Occupied sites.....	45
Approved sites not yet developed .....	2
Camps with mains water supplies .....	45
Camps connected to main drainage .....	12
Camps with own disposal works .....	1
Camps served by cesspools .....	28
Camps served by pail closets .....	4

The number of occupied camps increased in 1956 from 34 to 45 and these together with 2 camps approved but not yet developed provide 4,291 movable dwellings and cover an area of approximately 335 acres. The camps are under regular supervision by the Public Health Inspector and generally speaking are run efficiently and are not often the subject of complaint.



## 10. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 11. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Faeces .....	29
Urine .....	13
Sewer swabs .....	3
Cockles .....	8
Sausages .....	1
Milk .....	8
Water .....	151

## SECTION V

## HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1956 and the total since the war:-

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses:					
Completed in 1956 ...	18	-	-	2	20
Completed since the war:					
Permanent .....	286	14	-	36	336
Temporary .....	26	-	-	6	32
Under construction ..	16	-	-	4	20
Private enterprise:					
Completed in 1956 ...	25	6	-	3	34
Completed since the war	203	13	3	11	230
Under construction ..	28	7	3	2	40

2. The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list was 213, of which 92 were living in rooms and 121 in houses.

3. (a) One Clearance Order was made and confirmed during the year and consisted of three houses, 261, 263 and 265 Minster Road. Nos. 26 and 28 High Street, Eastchurch, both included in a confirmed Order, were demolished in 1956.

(b) Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, were made on the following properties:-

Woodlands, Glendale Road, Minster (demolished)  
 Chequers Lodge, Plough Road, Minster (demolished)  
 Corner Cottage, Lower Road, Eastchurch.

(c) The following houses were closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11:-

The Nook, Greyhound Road, Minster  
 4A The Crescent, Minster  
 17A Church Road, Eastchurch  
 2 Mud Row, Warden Row, Eastchurch

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

### Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses included in Clearance Areas made and confirmed during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3

### Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	-
Parts of buildings closed under (Section 12) Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	-

### Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts.	17
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:	
Houses remedied by owners.	-
Houses remedied by Local Authority.	-
Housing Act, 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9,10,11,16:	
Houses made fit by owners.	-
Houses made fit by Local Authority	-
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 -	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	-

### Housing Act 1949 (Improvement Grants)

Number of applications submitted	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of applications approved..	...	...	...	...	...	17

## SECTION VI

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## 1. MILK SUPPLY

There are now 40 distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations:-

Pasteurised..	...	...	...	40
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	4
Sterilised ..	...	...	...	36

Eight samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year and all passed the prescribed tests.

## 2. ICE CREAM

54 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream, an increase of 6. One manufacturer is also registered.

## 3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

Corned beef..	...	...	...	18	lb
Lamb ...	...	...	...	$3\frac{1}{2}$	lb
Pork ...	...	...	...	$4\frac{3}{4}$	lb
Sausages	...	...	...	12	lb
Fish ...	...	...	...	5	stones
Tinned fish .	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	lb
Tinned vegetables.	...	...	...	6	lb
Tinned fruit.	...	...	...	5	lb
Tinned milk..	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	lb
Tinned meat .	...	...	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	lb
Cheese..	...	...	...	3	lb

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene and disposed of on the Scrapsgate refuse tip.

(b) Considerable improvement has been effected in relation to the transport and handling of meat. The majority of meat arriving in the rural area is transported in up-to-date vehicles especially designed to meet the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.



(c) Steady progress is being made with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations. In the Leysdown area, unsatisfactory drainage provisions have tended to restrict enforcement to a minimum in relation to established businesses, but all new premises have had to meet the full requirements of the Regulations. With the provision of main drainage, all premises will be brought up to the requisite standard.

#### 4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 65 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-1954 -

##### Premises Inspections

Ice Cream, manufacture and sale ....	55	34
Preserved food, manufacture .....	1	13
Dairies .....	1	18

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below -

Butchers ... ..	9
Fishmongers . . . . .	7
Cafes and restaurants . . . . .	20
Confectionery ... ..	4
Tea rooms ... ..	3
General stores, including greengrocery	68

195 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

#### FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are five fish frying establishments and all are kept satisfactory. Two mobile vans also operate during the summer.

#### SHELLFISH

There is no commercial collection of shellfish from the foreshore but many local residents collect cockles for their own use and the most popular stretch of foreshore is at Scrapsgate. On eight occasions during the summer, cockles were collected from Scrapsgate and Leysdown and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and in one sample from Scrapsgate *Salmonella typhi* were isolated. Sewer swabs taken just before the effluent discharges on to the foreshore at Scrapsgate were all negative.

As mentioned in the section on Infectious Diseases, as soon as cockles were suspected of being the cause of an outbreak of typhoid, liaison was established with the Port of London Health Authority who control the foreshore as far as Warden Point.

## 7. FOOD &amp; DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Aricolan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butter Mint Toffee Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking Fat .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drinking Chocolate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Golden Butter Mints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Italian Red Cherries	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Milk Chocolate with Roasted Barcelonas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Oxtail Soup..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paregoric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Self-raising Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce with Cheese.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Milk.	13.3% deficient in fat.	)	Follow up samples showed that the quality of the milk had, in each case, improved.
Milk.	16.7% deficient in fat.	)	
Milk.	3.3% deficient in fat.	)	

## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	4	5	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) .. ...	15	16	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ....	5	8	-

2. Cases in which defects were found ... Nil

## 3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Sections 110 & 111
Making of wearing apparel ...	1	-
Making of artificial flowers.	1	-

## APPENDIX A

## Visits and Re-visits during 1956

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Verminous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Filthy conditions.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Drainage re-laid .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Movable dwellings.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	953
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rats and mice	...	...	...	1743 (including 195 by P.H.I.)	...	...	...	28
Refuse collection.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse tips..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Shops ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Stables and piggeries..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Mosquito control .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections in Clearance Areas ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections re Demolition Orders and Closing Orders .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections for Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Re-housing interviews and investigations ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fishmongers and poulterers..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fried fish shops..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Grocers, greengrocers and fruiterers .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Dairies and milk shops.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Restaurants and cafes .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Food manufacturing premises.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous food visits ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke, dust and fumes..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Miscellaneous visits and interviews ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	





